



CITY OF STOCKTON MUNICIPAL UTILITIES DEPARTMENT



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Mission Statement

To provide high-quality drinking water on demand; collect, treat, and reuse recovered wastewater; collect, treat and dispose of stormwater, all in accordance with applicable regulations and responsible business practices.

Department Description

The Municipal Utilities Department (MUD) encompasses the Water, Wastewater, and Stormwater Utilities, which are regulated for the protection of public health and the environment and supported by user fees. For operational efficiency, the department includes 12 divisions that operate, maintain, and support the Utilities. Additionally, the Utilities are managed to recognize the independent financial structure and regulatory requirements unique to each.

Water Utility

The Water Utility provides drinking water service to the northern and southern regions of the Stockton Metropolitan Area. California Water Service Company and San Joaquin County serve the central region. The Delta Water Treatment Plant (DWTP) began operation in May 2012, providing up to 30 million gallons per day of treated surface water from the San Joaquin Delta and Mokelumne River. Stockton's other water supplies are derived from the Calaveras and Stanislaus Rivers through a water supply agreement with the Stockton East Water District and several operational groundwater wells. The Water Utility maintains a water transmission and distribution system that includes seven reservoirs, 15 pumps, approximately 600 miles of pipeline, over 50,000 water meters, and multiple operational groundwater wells. The Water Utility also provides long-term water resources planning and supports a water conservation program.

Wastewater Utility

The Wastewater Utility features a collection system of approximately 900 miles of gravity sewer main, 554 miles of lower lateral pipe, 27 pump stations, and 30 miles of pressurized force main that route sewage to the Regional Wastewater Control Facility (RWCF). The system collects sewage from properties within the City, special districts outside the City, and certain areas within San Joaquin County. The RWCF has a permitted 55 million gallon per day advanced tertiary treatment capacity and is located on over 800 acres in the southwestern portion of the City, adjacent to the San Joaquin River. On average, the RWCF treats 30 million gallons of wastewater daily and discharges into the San Joaquin River under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.

Stormwater Utility

The Stormwater Utility consists of 77 pump stations, over 600 miles of pipeline, and 22,500 drain inlets that route stormwater from city streets into local basins and waterways. Regular system maintenance is necessary to prevent flooding from storm runoff. The Stormwater Utility is also responsible for oversight and compliance with the City's NPDES Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System permit, which requires extensive monitoring and public outreach programs to promote water quality in the San Joaquin Delta.



Department Strategic Work Plan

The department began updating the utility master plans for Water, Wastewater and Stormwater starting in FY 2020-21. Stockton City Council adopted the Water Utility Master Plan on February 23, 2021; the Wastewater Master Plan on October 18, 2022; and the Stormwater Master Plan on March 7, 2023. The master plans help staff plan, design, and meet financial requirements for future infrastructure improvements that support new development and evaluate necessary improvements at existing facilities. The most recent General Plan Update for 2040 projected different buildout land uses in comparison with the 2035 General Plan. The Wastewater capital improvement projects shown within the March 2019 Wastewater Rate Study includes just over \$483.2 million of projects to be funded from fiscal year 2020 to fiscal year 2028. The projects are expected to be funded from a combination of connection fees, balances in the Sewer Capital Fund, capital funding generated each year from operations (rate funded capital), grants, short-term note financing and long-term bonds. A comprehensive wastewater utility rate analysis, and increase was completed in the summer of 2024.

Upgrades and improvements to the RWCF were originally identified in the 2011 Capital Improvement and Energy Management Plan (CIEMP), and additional improvements are now necessary to meet treated wastewater discharge limits regulated by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board. The project is nearly complete and achieved mandated wastewater discharge limits by June 1, 2024. The following processes have completed construction and are commissioned into operation: Secondary Clarifiers; Aeration Basins, Blowers, and Return Activated Sludge (RAS) Pumps; Primary Effluent Pump Station; Chemical Feed System; Vector Pad; Ultraviolet Disinfection; Disk Filters; Primaries 1-8, and East Bank Outfall. Biosolids and energy production are not part of the current RWCF Modifications Project but have been identified as future phases of the CIEMP.

In FY 2022-23, the department worked with the GWA on the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) revision. The GSP is a required component of the California State Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) regulations. The plan identifies ground water sustainability goals and projects for Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) within the Eastern San Joaquin Sub-basin. The revised GSP was submitted and approved by the State. Two projects identified in the GSP currently in progress include the DWTP Groundwater Recharge Basin and the Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI). Initial efforts for both projects were started in FY 2022-23. The geotechnical investigation was completed for the recharge basin this last fiscal year. The investigation indicates that the site is feasible for construction of a recharge basin. The design of the basin began in FY 2023-24. The AMI project will upgrade the existing manual metering and data collection system to a fully automated system that will aid in water conservation and streamline data collection.

The Department conducted an analysis that demonstrated significant additional stormwater funding over the next 20 years would be necessary to maintain compliance with the State mandate to reduce environmental issues in state surface waters. Past efforts to increase stormwater funding have not been supported by the community. The Department has completed a Stormwater Master Plan to support the ongoing development of a Stormwater Enterprise Rate Study. The Stormwater fee has not changed since 1992, leading to insufficient revenues that have not kept pace with the rising costs of operational and maintenance programs and capital improvements.

